

Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan

Technical Advisory Committee – Studies, Research, and Best Practices Subcommittee

Subject	Socioeconomic Equity Working Group Studies/Research/Best Practices Subcommittee Meeting Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Planning Framework	Date	May 27, 2021
Facilitator	Ashley Montgomery	Time	11:00am – 12:00pm
Location	WebEx - https://governor.virginia.gov/i/45n7s	Scribe	Shurui Zhang

Invitees/Attendees			
#	Name	Organization/Role	Attended?
Socioeconomic Working Group Members and Staff Advisors			
1.	Ashley Montgomery – Working Group Lead	Associate Designer, Hanbury	Y
2.	Dr. Karen McGlathery – Working Group Lead	Director, Environmental Resilience Institute at the University of Virginia	Y
3.	Shurui Zhang - Staff	Commonwealth Coastal and Marine Policy Fellow, Virginia Sea Grant	Y
4.	Dr. Carl Hershner	Emeritus Professor of Marine Science, Virginia Institute of Marine Science at William & Mary	Y
5.	Catherine C. McGhee	Director of Research and Innovation, Virginia Transportation Research Council	Y
6.	Carlos Rivero	Chief Data Officer	Y
Other Subcommittee Member			
7.	Dr. Robert Weiss	Director, Center for Coastal Studies at Virginia Tech	Y
Other Participants			
8.	Ann Phillips	Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.) – Office of the Governor	Y
9.	Connor Winstead	DCR	Y
Consultant Support			
10.	Johanna Greenspan- Johnston	Dewberry	Y

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1.	Welcome and Chapter 1289 Reading	Ashley Montgomery provided an introduction on how the meeting will proceed, meeting etiquette, and requested participants to ask questions through the chat box. Public comments will be taken during the last 30 minutes of the meeting from the chat box from those attendees who registered to speak. She then read through the required Chapter 1289 virtual meeting language. Please contact Shurui Zhang at phone: 217-979-8438 if you have any connectivity issues.
2.	Roll Call and Quorum Affirmation	Shurui Zhang took roll and advised that a quorum was present. Ashley Montgomery then asked for a motion to move forward with the virtual meeting. Cathy McGhee moved and Carlos Rivero seconded. Motion Passed unanimously.
3.	Framing the Scope	Ashley Montgomery introduced the meeting agenda and presented an overview of the working group goals: the working group will define what equity means to the group and the Master Planning Process; the working group will also gather ongoing efforts made by community organizers to measure equity; the working group will develop a process for building equity into the engagement procedures and finally define the deliverables and timeline.

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		<p>Ashley shared the Equity Metrics documents which were distributed to the working group members before the meeting. Dr. Karen McGlathery added that given the timeline to produce the Master Plan, the list of metrics addresses the long-term goal instead of immediate outcomes.</p> <p>Ashley asked for additional insights to establish the metric of equity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Carl Hershner – The path forward would include all the subcommittees and the larger TAC. What is now emerging is the need to structure the inputs so that there is an opportunity for coastal communities to suggest their own metrics. Last time we talked about trying to have a condensed list and send it out to engage communities to suggest what are at risk in their particular area. The state and Dewberry are well down their tacks and we have minimal opportunity to do anything creative in the near term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Karen McGlathery – Are you suggesting that this list be narrow down and then shared with communities, as opposed to the other way around – having communities look at the broader list and say what’s important to them? ○ Dr. Carl Hershner – Yes. As I understood that the need to engage communities early without telling them what their problems are. I think a simplified list would be a way to open that discussion. ○ Dr. Karen McGlathery – The work we do at the UVA equity center is approaching it from a broad umbrella. It’s fine to narrow it down and ask communities to add. ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – As this project moving, Dewberry has also been thinking about equity. One of the recent things we’ve been doing is drafting a survey to go out to the public and key stakeholders, including local community officials. Based on input from this committee and others, we have included some open-ended questions, such as what do you consider the biggest challenges and most pressing needs for your communities or your jurisdictions. There are also multiple choices relating to whether people have engaged in certain kinds of resilience planning effort or equity/social justice planning effort, as well as questions relating to capacity. I believe there will be a version of this survey passed around for review. It’s helpful to get your perspective on how we can frame the equity elements. • Cathy McGhee – You have here “access routes” and I’m wondering if it takes into account access to transit as opposed to just roads, given that some underserved communities don’t own a lot of private vehicles and they are relying on public transportations. My second question is that are we considering the impact of how resilient that transportation infrastructure is if they get cut off regularly due to flooding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ashley Montgomery – I think it’s a layering of all of these factors. The way I see it, it’s a cascading consequence. When I placed this up here I was thinking mainly just active routes and that’s defined by contexts.

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		<p>Things like bus stops fall in both – it’s a transportation-related topic but it’s also a resource for people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Carl Hershner – When you composite the list of all metrics, is the evaluation or impact assessment protocol going to look at all the metrics, or are we going to allow uniqueness in communities and their risk needs? Equity isn’t necessarily everybody has the same; it’s that people have what they need to live the way they want. The question is for Dewberry and a planning question for the longer term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – From Dewberry’s perspective, we are getting results back from the initial survey to provide insight into how different communities are defining their equity needs differently, and what are their equity-related concerns. As we get into the social vulnerability index, there are known demographic indicators that might indicate levels of social vulnerability across communities. Across communities, there might be more community capacity and resources kind of questions that can help tailor our understanding of who are underserved communities. With timing we’ll see how much we can gain and fit into this 2021 version, while making recommendations and leave room for future iterations and refinement. • Dr. Carl Hershner – I’m looking forward to future iterations. The other issue is the need for spatial resolution in all of these analyses. As the information is collected, there is the need to have the data geographically located so we can plan effectively and evaluate effectively. • Dr. Karen McGlathery – Johanna, if you are going to rely on surveys to get the information you need, how are you going to be sure that you are getting the right voices? If the survey is the main tool for now, how do you make sure you capture what you want to capture? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – Surveys are one of the tools we are employing, as well as information we can get from more quantitative sources. We have an outreach team that specifically focused on disseminating surveys and working through state partnerships. I’m not the best person to speak on the survey disseminations. ○ Ashely Montgomery – It seems that you already know what data layers you have at the moment. It seems the qualitative part is missing, and that is some of the metrics we have here are trying to get at. Is it more helpful for us to understand regionally how the impact analysis is going to frame some of the qualitative metrics? If you are looking for something more refined, could we still have this initial run to give equity metrics to Dewberry? Should we look at it more generally but focus on the qualitative part? ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – Whatever metrics you have we’ll want to be able to look at it and incorporated it the best we can. The qualitative elements are where this committee’s input would be useful. The way we are framing the impact assessment is by taking a semi-quantitative approach, combining qualitative and quantitative information. We can map data and we want to complement that with qualitative assessment, particularly for the things we don’t have.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ashley Montgomery – Could you identify the qualitative data you don't have for now? ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – I'm interested in your take on this as well. For us I suppose, for example, we can take a look at what transportation system – roadways, bridges, physical infrastructures – are more or less exposed, and how does it translate into equity perspective. Another way to look at it is how much of these are in socially vulnerable areas. More local input could be helpful. ○ Ashley Montgomery - It would be a great idea if you are mapping out the infrastructure on top of identified communities, and then ask for qualitative data. Earlier you mentioned working with the Outreach subcommittee. I chair that committee and we are in the process of creating networks of community service organizers and NGOs. A part of our outreach effort is to find a way to authentically engaged with those communities, and what toolkit VPC is putting together. Could you speak more of your thoughts on the connection with this working group? ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – We hope to utilize that network to disseminate the survey. There is currently one for the general public to get a temperature check and identify the issues and challenges, and then taking the data and analyze it from an equity perspective. There is another survey oriented towards professional stakeholders that is still under discussion. We have a draft that is under review. ○ Dr. Karen McGlathery – What do you want from this working group? ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – Whatever insight you can provide to view the quantitative information from an equity perspective. Given the time constraints, we will see what we can incorporate in this version versus recommendations for future iterations. We are drafting on how we are looking at specific components, and we would love to present some of them in future meetings and get your feedback. There is a question around vulnerability indices. We have started to do our research and assess the different vulnerability indices. We would appreciate insight from this committee.
4.	Dewberry Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Karen McGlathery – Where are you in that process? Which indices have you identified and what are your thoughts on those? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – We have looked at CDC's social vulnerability index, the SoVI index from the Hazard and Vulnerability Research Institute in the University of South Carolina, the EPA's environmental justice indices, and the VIMS Adapt VA social vulnerability index. They include a lot of similar metrics, and some include more variables than others, but they all hit the key elements of demographics and economic information. Some of our main interests are the ability to access the data and the documented methodology, and if we can recreate the methodology to get more refined results. The EPA and CDC ones are easier to download and have a lot of documentation. For the South Carolina and VIMS ones, it is harder to find the documented methodology. At this point, we don't have a hard

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		<p>recommendation, and therefore we are looking for insights from this committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dr. Carl Hershner – The Adapt VA is developed by William and Mary, and the website is hosted by VIMS. The Adapt VA methodology was specifically developed to address the concerns for the SoVI index. The Adapt VA site was intended to provide comparison so that changes in one component will not result in changes in scores anywhere else. You could evaluate progress in local efforts. The methods are published on the website. If you need more information, you can talk directly to the person who developed it, and I can send you her contact information. ○ Ann Phillips – Johanna, you should have the Adapt VA (Sarah Stafford’s latest work). I’m not sure if it is directly reflecting on the current website, but she had shared her work with us, as in me and my Sea Grant fellows two summers ago. We have shared her most recent version. Brian has been working with Molly Mitchell to make sure we have the last information. We also have the Deloitte work that VDM did with them. Their work is more health-focused, and we got them yesterday, so you might not have seen it. The challenge with Deloitte’s work is that it is proprietary, so we can show it but the nuances of how they got them to reside with them. Shurui has also been looking through other indices to understand what’s in them. I would add that the EJ Screen is the only one at the block group level, and the rest of them are at the census tract level. ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – To my knowledge, we did not receive the data from Molly Mitchell and VIMS, but we are expecting to get that soon. There might be pros and cons to each of these different indices and different approaches. Our visions were to be able to replicate the index we pick if there is a documented methodology, and we can recreate at the smallest resolution. We have developed the method of using the CDC’s index and replacing the ones available at a more granular level. ○ Dr. Karen McGlathery – How recent is the Adapt VA data? Is it as recent as the EPA EJ Screen? ○ Dr. Carl Hershner – I believe it is but I don’t know that for a fact. I would have to check with Sarah. ○ Dr. Karen McGlathery – Ann makes a good point that the EJ Screen are finer and more recent. I believe they are 2014-2018, and they are using block boundaries from 2018, whereas a lot of SoVI indices are much older. ○ Johanna Greenspan-Johnston – As 2020 census is just coming out. We can keep updating it for future iterations. ● Dr. Karen McGlathery – I found the social vulnerability indices a black box – it’s difficult to find what’s included in them. It would be helpful to provide us some info, and we will have our intern working on that. Vulnerability is a different word than equity, and we have to think about whether we are going to include all these different aspects of vulnerability, or if we are just using a set of simple metrics that address the questions of whether we are increasing equity and

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5.	Public Comment Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q – Hannah Bernth – “Is socioeconomic affects project prioritization? If it does, how does it affect project prioritization?” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A – Johanna Greenspan Johnston – Yes, it will impact project prioritization. We are not ready to share the specifics around that. We are still iterating and figuring it out. We will also take recommendation from this committee on how equity and social vulnerability potentially could be considered as a way to evaluate projects.
6.	Adjourn	Ashley Montgomery asked for motion to adjourn. Dr. Carl Hershner moved, Carlos Rivero seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:59am.